

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (CANCELED)

15. (NEW) A method of restoring hook material used for hook and loop attachment, the hook material having stems arrayed thereupon with the stems each terminating in a hook, the method comprising the step of raking the hook material with a member having a plurality of spaced teeth, wherein
- a. the width of each respective tooth, and
 - b. the spacing apart of adjacent teeth,
- are such that adjacent hooks on the hook material have one of the teeth fit therebetween closely adjacent to their stems.
16. (NEW) The method of claim 15 wherein the teeth are centered approximately 0.8 mm apart.
17. (NEW) The method of claim 15 wherein the teeth are centered 0.7-0.9 mm apart.
18. (NEW) The method of claim 15 wherein:
- a. the spacings between adjacent teeth are at least the thickness of one of the stems, and
 - b. the width of each tooth is less than the distance between adjacent stems.
19. (NEW) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the teeth has a wedge-shaped leading edge.
20. (NEW) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the teeth terminates in a leading edge, and has a width which increases as the tooth extends rearwardly of the leading edge.

21. (NEW) The method of claim 20 wherein the tooth has opposing sides with the leading edge therebetween, and wherein both sides incline away from the leading edge.
22. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein:
- a. the plurality of spaced teeth define a first line on the member, and
 - b. the member further comprises a second line of spaced teeth on the member, wherein the teeth in the second line are arrayed in echelon with the teeth in the first line.
23. (NEW) An apparatus for restoring hook material used for hook and loop attachment, such hook material having thereupon an array of stems terminating in hooks, the apparatus being defined by a rake including a plurality of spaced teeth wherein:
- a. the width of each respective tooth, and
 - b. the spacing apart of adjacent teeth,
- are sized to allow each tooth to closely pass between adjacent stems on the hook material.
24. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein each tooth includes a leading edge, with the tooth increasing in thickness rearwardly from the leading edge.
25. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein each tooth includes a forward leading edge, and each tooth is tapered to:
- a. increase in width rearwardly of the leading edge, and
 - b. increase in height rearwardly of the leading edge.
26. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein:
- a. the plurality of teeth is defined in a first discrete set, and
 - b. a second discrete set of spaced teeth is provided spaced from the first set, wherein the teeth in the second set are sized and spaced similarly to the teeth in the first set.

27. (NEW) An apparatus for restoring hook material used for hook and loop attachment, such hook material having thereupon an array of stems terminating in hooks, the apparatus being defined by a plastic rake sized to fit within the hand, and including:
- a. a first array of teeth, and
 - b. a second array of teeth, the second array being spaced from the first array;
- wherein:
- (1) each tooth within the arrays is sized to fit between adjacent stems of hook material, and
 - (2) adjacent teeth of each array are spaced to allow passage of one of the stems therebetween.
28. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first array and second array are spaced by a toothless valley.
29. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first and second arrays each define one or more rows of teeth, the rows in the first array being parallel to the rows in the second array.
30. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the teeth of the second array are set in echelon with the teeth of the first array.
31. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein at least one of the arrays includes tapered teeth, wherein each tapered tooth grows thicker in at least one dimension as it extends rearwardly from the leading edge of the tapered tooth.
32. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein each tapered tooth is axially symmetric in at least one plane defined along an axis extending rearwardly from the leading edge of the tapered tooth.

33. **(NEW)** The apparatus of claim 27 wherein at least one of the arrays includes tapered teeth, wherein each tapered tooth grows thicker in at least one dimension as it extends rearwardly from its leading edge.